

MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities
and Substance Abuse Services
Sheraton Raleigh Capital Center Hotel
(421 S. Salisbury Street)**

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Attending:

Commission/Committee Members : Don Stedman, Chairman, Pender McElroy, Dorothy Rose Crawford, Lou Adkins, Lois Batton, Ann Forbes, Mary Kelly, Judy Lewis, Fredric Stell, Marvin Swartz, Laura Coker, Floyd McCullouch

Ex-Officio Member: Bob Hedrick

Excused: Patricia Chamings, Paul H. Gulley, Raymond Reddrick, Bernard Sullivan, Jr., Ann Suggs, Martha Macon, Ellen Holliman

Others: Don Willis, Peggy Balak, Susan Collins, Stephanie Alexander, Jack Blackley, M.D., Joan Kaye, Mike Mayer, Karen Stallings, John Crawford

Handouts: Agenda; October 2, 2003 Minutes; Minutes of the Task Force on Housing Meeting January 13, 2004; Eastern AHEC Brochure; Training and Reform Presentation; AHEC Presentation

Welcome and Introductions

Don Stedman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. All attending made introductions.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the October 2, 2003 Advisory Committee Minutes was made. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Announcements by Pender McElroy

Pender McElroy thanked the Commission members for their work on the Task Force on Housing.

Don Stedman also thanked the members for their work and thanked the Division staff for their support. He acknowledged Stephanie Alexander's leaving the Division and going to work with the Division of Facility Services. Ms. Alexander will attend the February 17, 2004 Task Force on Housing meeting. Mr. Stedman thanked her for her professionalism and helpfulness during her tenure with the Commission.

Ms. Alexander announced she would be Chief of Mental Health and Licensure and Certification, taking Jeff Horton's former position with DFS.

Mr. Stedman reported on the work of the Task Force at its meeting on January 13 and passed out the minutes of that meeting. He said a small set of clear strategic recommendations would be brought to the Advisory Committee to recommend to the Commission. He acknowledged the support and advice received from Julia Bick with the Secretary's Office, DHHS.

Divisions Current Efforts Regarding Personnel and Training

Mr. Stedman introduced Joan Kaye, Team Leader, Communication and Training Team, DMH/DD/SAS, to speak about the Division's current efforts on Personnel and Training. Ms. Kaye presented a handout on Training and Reform to the Committee members.

Ms. Kaye said there would be no reduction in training because of budget reductions or in the new funding formulas for LMEs and providers. The LME cost model incorporates training costs. Training is also included in the service rate cost model.

The Committee discussed the necessity of understanding the training needs to ensure there is a competent work force to support the new system design. It was advised that DHHS had commissioned a study on the training needs of the broader human services workforce. The study included recommended strategies for providing the necessary training and would be useful as baseline information.

Discussion continued on: how to assess the knowledge base of the workforce with respect to the best practices that will be required in the new system; how to assure providers take advantage of training opportunities provided; and the need for more follow-through. The committee commented on the need for training on the new service definitions, which should be done several times across the State and includes provider staff. Members were also interested in the issues of moving to a competency-based system, consumer specific training and becoming more outcome-focused.

Ms. Kaye reported that a curriculum on person centered thinking is being developed in the Division. In addition, the Division is looking at the need to provide training on utilization management. The Committee voiced concern that the public school and corrections systems need to be considered and involved in utilization management at the local level. The need for local training of public agencies should be considered as the UM training is developed. Ms. Kaye reminded the members that community development is a new requirement of the LMEs. Members expressed the need for personnel in the new LME systems to receive training in administration and management.

Ms. Kaye introduced Karen Stallings of the UNC System, Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Ms. Stallings provided handouts and spoke on work force development as a focus of the AHEC system. Ms. Stallings explained how AHECs function across the state and their focus on providing training in areas of best practices. Marvin Swartz is the Director of Duke AHEC program and spoke of their efforts to implement the best practice tools (kits) developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Committee discussed the need for LME training expectations to be clearly specified. The LME role is to ensure provider training. A mechanism is in place to provide training for the providers by the LME. There is a need to maintain consistency across the State. Mr. Willis stated that in the draft DHHS/LME contract, there is a list of expected outcomes. Members were encouraged to review the LME performance expectations in the draft and provide comments to the Division. He also mentioned that there will be eight regional training sessions on Mental Health Reform starting in April.

Dr. Stedman agreed to summarize the Advisory Committee discussion in his report to the Commission. The Committee did not make any specific recommendations to the Commission on how to proceed. Dr. Swartz and Ann Forbes were asked to help Dr. Stedman in developing the next steps for the Committee to discuss.

New Agenda Item

The Advisory Committee members discussed concerns with respect to the Division Director leaving his position. They focused on the role of the Commission to advise the Secretary on the selection process for a new, equally qualified Director. Mr. McElroy will bring the discussion to the full Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.